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as to actors' badges as Mr. SHUCKBURGH understands them, than the passage he cites from STUBBES.

P. 115. Mr. SHUCKBURGH is, perhaps, overconfident in identifying without a qualification "the olde song of Percy and Douglas" with the ballad of "Chevy Chase." Professor CHILD is more cautious: "Sidney's communication is fully justified by the quality of The Battle of Otterburn, but is merited in even a higher degree by The Hunting of the Cheviot, and for that reason (I know of no other) The Hunting of the Cheviot may be supposed to be the ballad he had in mind." ('The English and Scottish Popular Ballads,' iii, 305). In quoting the beginning of the ballad, Mr. SHUCKBURGH follows Bishop PERCY's inaccurately printed text.

P. 118. SIDNEY mentions Æneas's feat in "carrying away his religious ceremonies:" "the *sacra*," comments Mr. SHUCKBURGH, "which rather mean the objects of religious worship, the Penates." But that is precisely what SIDNEY's language signifies. Mr. SHUCKBURGH forgets that *ceremonies* often meant "sacred objects" in Elizabethan English.

P. 119. *Quibble* is not "a shortened form of *quidlibet*." The editor is doubtless thinking of *quillet*.

P. 120. For "A.-S. *gēola*," read "A.-S. *gēol*." *Gēola*=December. For "Icel." *jol*, read *jól*.

P. 123. Mr. SHUCKBURGH speaks of Robin Hood as an historical character. "The noun of Robin Hood, the prince of outlaws of the twelfth century, was still great." Not a word of the fact that this exploded guess of THIERRY'S is not undoubted history.

P. 129. The student will not rise much instructed from a perusal of the following note on King ARTHUR. "The stories of King Arthur and the Round Table were told in ballads of very early date. The first prose book was the *Morte d'Arthur* printed by Caxton in 1485, translated from the French by Sir Thomas Mallory, and often subsequently reprinted."

P. 131. O. Fr. *mostre* is derived by Mr. SHUCKBURGH from Lat. *mones*.

P. 133. Perhaps SIDNEY is here using *allows* in the very common sense of *approves*.

P. 145. CHAUCER'S "Troilus" is said by

Mr. SHUCKBURGH to be "founded on an old history written by Lollius of Urbino."

P. 147. The "E. K." of the "Shepherd's Calendar" glosses is unhesitatingly identified with EDWARD KIRK. I have no doubt of the correctness of this old identification; but the student has a right to be informed that it is contemptuously rejected by some modern scholars (see SOMMER'S fac-simile edition of the "Shep. Cal.": 1889, Introd. pp. 15-25).

P. 149. "It has been said that the first three acts [of "Gorbuduc"] were by Norton, the last two by Sackville." From this language the student will hardly suspect that it is the title-page to the first edition of the play that is the authority for this distribution of authorship.

P. 153. "Cp. Chaucer, "Knight's Tale" l. 316, whose 'hors of bras' was also managed," etc. The *Knight's* may here be regarded as a misprint for *Squire's*.

P. 154. For "Icelandic *slaegd*," read *slægð*.

P. 176. "Rimed to death, as is sayd to be doone in Iceland," a very interesting passage passed over in silence by Professor COOK (cf. *Am. Journal of Philol.* xi, 390), is commented on by Mr. SHUCKBURGH. A better note, however, is ZIMMER'S, *Gött. Gel. Anz.*, 1890, No. 20, pp. 811-12.

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DANISH GRAMMAR.

Dansk Grammatik ved E. JESSEN. Udg. paa Carlsbergfondets Bekostning. Copenhagen: Gyldendalske Boghandel, 1891. 8vo, pp. 204.

THIS work will be welcomed by all students of Danish, as the most complete and rational treatment of the subject yet presented. In spite of the extremely polemical character of the preface, in which he defines his book as "an attempt, directed against prevailing falsifications, to give a brief, pure presentation of the linguistic laws in Danish," Dr. JESSEN does not confine himself to the too much debated subject of orthography, but takes up in turn the several elements of Danish grammar in its widest sense.

A word with regard to the present condition of orthography in Denmark, before considering the real subject of this article. Ever since the time of RASK and MOLBECH, Danish scholars have spent no inconsiderable portion of their leisure in abusing one another's systems of spelling. These *Entgegnungen* have frequently been of so fierce and abusive a nature, that to us more peaceable Westerners they would seem to be entirely incompatible with refinement and scholarship. In Denmark, however, such matters are regarded differently. Until 1889, the Orthographical dictionary of SV. GRUNDTVIG, compiled in 1870, was the acknowledged authority in Denmark, although everyone took the liberty of spelling as he chose. Two years ago a commission, appointed by the minister of culture, SCAVENIUS, published a set of rules, differing in many points from the preceding system, but preserving the same general principles. It is this system, and especially its ministerial modifications, that has roused Dr. JESSEN's wrath, and which he denounces in several places as "destructive, fabulous, meaningless," etc. For the foreign student of Danish, this whole question is of so slight interest that its consideration need not detain us here. The fullest criticism of the subject from our author's standpoint may be found in "Den Litteraire Retskrivning."

Putting aside, then, the spelling, we may take up in turn some of the most important points in Dr. JESSEN's book. One improvement that should be made in the next edition of the work is the freer use of italics. The exposition would gain much in clearness were the examples distinguished in this manner. The paragraph divisions and subdivisions are admirable and the general employment of types deserves special notice. The leading words and topics are carefully emphasized, and the footnotes are judiciously chosen, always excepting, of course, the occasional little hits at the arch enemy SCAVENIUS.

The book opens with a general discussion of grammatical terms. Dr. JESSEN very sensibly remarks in this connection, "In schools where Danish translations of terms are employed 'Grundord,' 'Gjenstandsord,' 'Hensynsord' are usually given, which is inexpedient." But while using the Latin terms 'Subject,'

'Object,' etc., he adds in parenthesis, probably for the benefit of these schools, the native words. The Danish term for preposition, 'Forholdsord,' he very properly criticises as not only inexpedient but as absolutely incorrect, since "all words indicate in some way or other a relation." So, too, 'Tingsnavn' and 'Begrebsnavn,' are characterized as incorrect translations of 'concrete' and 'abstract,' and 'Kjendeord' of 'Artikler.' The discussion of clauses is thoroughly scientific and, as far as I know, a complete innovation in Danish grammar study. This introductory chapter concludes with an interesting account of Danish phonetics, in which many scattered facts are gathered together in convenient form.

Chapter I, *Lyd og Skrift i Dansk*, contains too many disputed points to permit full criticism. P. 76, the author states:

"It is historically correct to regard the *-e* of the article as elided in *Haven, Riget, Hestene*. On the other hand, it is historically improper to regard the plural ending in *Konger, Hyrder, Bønder*, etc., as otherwise than in *Sager, Hænder*, etc.: it must in both cases be taken as *-er*."

As Danish grammarians have heretofore agreed in regarding the plr. ending of nouns terminating in *-e* as *-r*, Dr. JESSEN should have given his reasons for his statement that the stem vowel *-e* suffers elision before the article, but not before the plr. ending. In the succeeding line the rule that *-e* cannot be retained before the feminine termination *-inde*, is doubtful in the case of *Kammerherreinde*. My own tendency, whenever it has been my privilege to address such lofty personages, has always been to retain the *-e*, in defiance of analogy, and the same form is given by MOLBECH, GRUNDTVIG and A. LARSEN. Dr. JESSEN does not agree with these authorities, but a great many other writers do. Here, as in several other places, notably under orthography, our author has allowed the zeal of the reformer to interfere with the impartiality of the scientific inquirer.

Chapter II, on word-formation can be only mentioned here, although its contents are well worth close study. Under Inflection, Chapter III, the following points may be singled out. Par. 106, a. *Øxen* should be added to the list of

irregular plurals. In the same paragraph Dr. JESSEN repeats his dogma of the plural ending *-er*. To the list of weak verbs in par. 120, b, suffering vowel change in the stem, or better expressed, as in MÖBIUS' "Dänische Formenlehre," showing *Rückumlaut* in the preterite and the past participle, should be added *sætter*, *siger*, *lægger* and *gjør*, described in the following par. as "miscellaneous anomalies." The rest of the verbs in this list are better defined as preterito presents. This classification is followed by MÖBIUS and is in every way preferable. To the strong verbs given in par. 121, b, should be added *ager*, *dryber*, *kiger*, *klyver*, *knækker*, *svelter* and *vejer*. While the strong preterites are rare, they can be found in modern literature.

The last chapter contains a full discussion of Danish syntax. A more satisfactory treatment of the construction, *det er mig*, "it is me," may be found in O. JESPERSEN'S "Studier over Engelske Kasus," p. 137. JESSEN dismisses it curtly as a fault common to English and Danish. His criticism of the distinction between *hinanden* and *hverandre* as "inconvenient but etymologically correct," is open to doubt; correct it certainly is. The first appendix, on poetical language, is little more than an orthographical discussion, in which the writer's positions are defended by the decidedly dangerous method of poetical authority. The second appendix, on Older Danish, is very short and offers nothing worthy of special mention, while the third and last resembles the first in its polemical character.

In concluding, I can not do better than quote the late Prof. MÖBIUS' notice of Dr. JESSEN'S first attempt in grammatical study, "Dansk Sproglaere, Copenhagen, 1868," which, taking into account the far greater extent of the present work, applies equally to his "Dansk Grammatik":

"Dieses kleine, ebenso inhaltsreiche wie durch die mancherlei neuen und eigenthümlichen Gesichtspunkte höchst anregende Buch enthält in knappster Form, was sich dem Vf. an Resultaten seiner mehrfachen Einzeluntersuchungen auf dem Gebiete dänischer Gram. ergeben hat."

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THE OLDER EDDA.

Codex Regius af den Ældre Edda. Udg. af LUDV. F. A. WIMMER og Finnur Jónsson. Copenhagen: 1891, 4to.

Ordbog over det gamle norske Sprog, af Dr. JOHAN FRITZNER. Omarbejdet, forøget og forbedret Udgave. I-II. Christiania: Den norske Forlagsforening, 1883-1891. 8vo.

THE phototype and diplomatic edition of the 'Elder' Edda announced last year by the "Society for Publishing Old Northern Literature" appeared this last summer. I have, once before, called the attention of the readers of MOD. LANG. NOTES to this publication, and I beg leave to remind them of it again, now that it is on the market.

This manuscript, the most valuable monument in the whole Royal Library of Copenhagen, from whose loss the greatest detriment would result to Scandinavian science and literature, has been laid here before the public in a shape worthy of its great importance.

The book contains; first, a minute description of the manuscript, its history, and its peculiarities as to binding, form, writing, spelling, etc. Then follow, side by side, the two reproductions of the text, the phototype and the diplomatic. The phototype plates were prepared by Mr. CRONE of Copenhagen, and they represent, no doubt, the best that photographic art can produce in this line. The technical process by which the text has been reproduced does not enable us to distinguish the headings of the several poems in the phototype reproduction, since these head lines were originally written in a reddish brown ink which is now so faded, even in the original vellum manuscript, that most of them can be deciphered only under the most favorable conditions. The painted initials, however, which are written respectively in red and green ink, or in both, are still plainly visible in almost every case.

I have carefully gone through a great part of the diplomatic transcription of the text, but I have as yet failed to find any errors or omissions. Comment is made on almost every line of the text, while the last part of the book consists of remarks setting forth in each case, peculiarities, errors, omissions, etc.